

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2172

Introduced by Assembly Member Strickland

February 20, 2002

An act relating to child welfare.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2172, as amended, Strickland. Criminal records information: child welfare agency personnel.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services and counties to perform various functions relating to the provision of social services, including child welfare services. Existing law also requires the Department of Justice and local law enforcement agencies to maintain certain information regarding criminal records, and requires the Department of Justice to furnish state summary criminal history information to, among others, county child welfare agency personnel, as specified. Existing law also authorizes a child welfare agency to secure state summary criminal history information through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) for purposes relating to the welfare of children, as specified.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services *and the Department of Justice, jointly*, to conduct a study in connection with county child welfare agency personnel accessing criminal records, and the cost and time required to train these persons to use the CLETS system.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The State Department of Social Services
2 ~~shall and the Department of Justice shall, jointly,~~ conduct a study
3 regarding the need for granting to county child welfare agency
4 personnel in the state expanded access to the California Law
5 Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) of the
6 Department of Justice, as well as to the criminal offender records
7 information of local law enforcement agencies in the state.
8 (b) The study shall include, but not be limited to, *all of the*
9 *following:*
10 (1) A determination as to how long, on the average, it takes for
11 county child welfare agency personnel having authority to access
12 records pursuant to Section 16504.5 of the Welfare and Institutions
13 Code, ~~to access state summary criminal history information, as~~
14 ~~provided in paragraph (17) of subdivision (b) of Section 11105 of~~
15 ~~the Penal Code.~~
16 (2) A determination as to whether it is necessary to develop a
17 more expedient method to access ~~to these records~~ *the records*
18 *specified in paragraph (1).*
19 (3) A calculation as to the estimated time and cost of having all
20 social workers in the state participate in the two to six hours of
21 training currently required before being granted access to criminal
22 records information in the CLETS system.
23 (c) The department shall report to the Legislature with the
24 results of the study no later than July 1, 2004.

